



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Paragraph beginning at line 22 of page 25 has been amended as follows:

Since the length of the piezoelectric elements 22a through 22l in the longitudinal direction, i.e., the direction in which the voltage is applied is one half of that of the piezoelectric elements 21a through 21f, they [contact] contract in an amount which is about twice the contraction of the piezoelectric elements 21a through 21f in spite of the fact that the same voltage is applied to them.

Paragraph beginning at line 8 of page 32 has been amended as follows:

Figs. 3A through 3D are schematic views showing a structure and operation of [a] an ultrasonic motor 3 having a piezoelectric actuator [3 which is] according to a third embodiment of the invention. Fig. 3A is a schematic front view of the ultrasonic motor 3. Fig. 3B is a schematic view showing a stacking structure of the ultrasonic motor 3. Fig. 3C is a schematic view illustrating an operation of the ultrasonic motor 3.

Paragraph beginning at line 15 of page 32 has been amended as follows:

The structure of the [piezoelectric actuator] ultrasonic motor 3 will now be described.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Non-elected claims 5-20 have been canceled without prejudice or admission and subject to applicants' right to file a continuing application to pursue the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

Claims 1-4 have been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A piezoelectric actuator comprising: a plurality of stacked piezoelectric elements for undergoing expansion/contraction movement to vibrationally drive the piezoelectric elements in a preselected mode of vibration in accordance with a driving signal applied thereto, at least one of the piezoelectric elements having a thickness which differs from that of [different than] at least one of the other piezoelectric elements in accordance with the preselected mode of vibration.

2. (Twice Amended) A piezoelectric actuator according to claim 1; further comprising driving means for inputting a driving signal to the piezoelectric elements to

of vibration; wherein the piezoelectric elements are stacked in a direction parallel to the output section.

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